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Beckman Music

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12/07/2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Case Number: AF 09-0688

803 Eighth Ave.
Helena, MT 59601
406-449-4617

December 6, 2016

Montana Supreme Court
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Supreme Court

As we all know, there should be no discrimination towards other people - whether it is over matters of gender, sexual orientation, race, or religion. We don't want to see any one suffer for something that they cannot help, but is it not discrimination to force a Christian lawyer to publicly confess to something that is inherently against his religion? I understand that you might say that the stronger prejudice is against the LGBT community, as for centuries they have suffered the hatred of others, including those who proclaim to be Christian and as Americans they have the freedom to choose who they wish to spend the rest of their life with.

However, forcing Christians to speak against their religion is also a breakage in America's social contract - The Constitution. Christian lawyers have the same freedom of speech as any secular lawyer. That being said, hate speech should be condoned by society. However, it is not hate speech to say "Marriage is between one man and one woman." That is a fundamental Sacrament of most Christian Churches and it is a part of human nature to profess (not force) what we believe.

Again, we don't want any of the LGBT community to suffer further, but please consider our rights as well. There are many lawyers who believe and choose to say that "Marriage should be given to those who want it" and they have a Constitutional right to be able to say that. We do not wish for their right of free speech taken away from them, please do not take away ours.

Thank you,

Wayne Beckman

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